

*Resurgence*

*Nola Gasmier*

I am neither an art critic nor an art historian. This lack of qualification did not prevent me, however, from thoroughly enjoying Nola Gasmier's new exhibition shown at the Victoria Park Centre for the Arts. Living locally, I often indulge in the intimacy of this gallery and its lack of pretentiousness. The gallery suits Nola well, as lack of pretentiousness also characterises her honest, bold, colourful paintings executed in either oil, acrylic, charcoal or pastel chalks. Nola is an emerging artist who recently returned to painting after decades dominated by focusing on the necessities of living. She considers herself a neoexpressionist, as she employs intense colours, audacious brushwork, and focuses on emotive subjects. The trifecta of the portraits of her mother, father, and brother are a good example of her style. They evoke emotions around the relationships within the family: the self-effacing mother painted in a translucent pink, her features barely showing, her father's features dominated by a moustache which evokes his dominance and masculinity, while her brother, in jeans, projects activity, handiness and competence. 'Salute the cat' catches a cat in a quintessential 'cat' moment, masterfully so, in my opinion, in its economy of detail and use of colour. Then, among others there are the landscapes (Busselton Jetty, and Koombana Dreaming) large, all carried by colour and confidently executed. I came away from the exhibition regretting the lost years in which Nola did not paint.

Naomi Segal (PhD)

*Exhibition held in the Kent Street Gallery Front Room*

*27.05.21 - 08.06.21*